GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3521
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2002
PRODUCTION OF GAS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH
SURESH CHANDEL

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that exploration for inflammable gas in Jwalamukhi in District Kangra (Himachal Pradesh) has been continuing for the last several years and of late there are signs that large quantity of gas can emanate due to which there is a panic among the local public;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government have made any efforts to remove the panic among the public;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which commercial production of gas at the above site is likely to be started?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3521 for 12th December, 2002 by Shri Suresh Chandel, MP regarding Production of Gas in Himachal Pradesh

(a) to (e): Since its inception, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has been carrying out exploration for hydrocarbons in the State of Himachal Pradesh, including Jawalamukhi area, through geo-scientific survey and drilling.As on 1.10.2002, a total of 3608 Ground Line Kilometers (GLK) of 2-D seismic survey has been carried out by ONGC in Himachal Pradesh.Six exploratory wells and five structural wells were drilled in the State, of which five wells were drilled in Jawalamukhi structure. One well is under drilling. On 10.7.2002, one of the well, Jawalamukhi 7 drilled earlier, was reported to have become active leaking minor gas and water. On receipt of the information of leakage, senior officials from ONGC alongwith safety officials visited the drill-site.They interacted with the local authorities and local public, apprised them about the situation and made it clear that there was no need for any panic because the well activity would soon be controlled and all efforts would be taken to minimise environmental pollution, if any. ONGC officals thereafter took measures to cap the well and currently there is no activity. Nevertheless, the well has been kept under observation and area continuous to be cordoned off under `round the clock` security.

At present, ONGC is carrying out exploration in Kangra-Mandi area in Himachal Pradesh and feasibility of production of gas can only be assessed after a discovery and establishment of commercial quantity of gas reserves in the area, for which no time frame can be laid down.